

# **Western Great Basin 2001 Fire Season Overview**

## **Weather and Fuels**

For most of Nevada, 2001 was the driest water year since the 1870's. In the western third of the state, precipitation and snow pack amounts for October through March were less than 70% of normal. The exception to this pattern was southern Nevada, where water totals were 132% of normal for the same period. The other major weather factor influencing the 2001 season was the continued warm temperatures, which sometimes were up to 10 degrees above normal. It was the third year in a row for such warm, dry conditions.

With snow accumulations limited and, once again, confined to the upper elevations, there was minimal compaction of the grasses, and residual loadings of fine fuels remained throughout much of northern Nevada. Windy conditions combined with record high temperatures and well below normal relative humidity values in May to dry out the fuels at a rapid rate. By early June, the fine fuels had cured below the 6,000 ft. level (about a month ahead of normal). Campfire and smoking restrictions went into effect June 11<sup>th</sup>, 4-5 weeks earlier than usual. Reports from the Warrior fire in late May were that fire behavior was more typical of August.

A very heavy crop of annual grasses and forbs in southeastern and extreme southern Nevada created concern for a severe fire season in those areas, but monsoonal flow brought significant amounts of rain in early July, dramatically reducing fire activity for the remainder of the season.

Northern Nevada remained in a deficit precipitation situation throughout the season. From mid-June into October, NFDRS Burning Indices at most of the stations throughout northern Nevada were at or near maximum levels, and all fuels supported very active fire spread and high resistance to control. Although fuel conditions remained conducive to large fire activity into October, fire occurrence tapered off as the number of ignitions decreased, the days became shorter, and the nights became cooler and more humid.

## **Large Fire Activity**

With heavy fire activity occurring throughout the West, fewer resources were available for prepositioning and active fires again this year. Despite this, initial attack efforts were successful 95% of the time, with only 5% of the fires reaching 300+ acres in size.

All but 5 of this year's large fires were lightning caused. The first large fire of the year began May 11<sup>th</sup> on Carson City BLM land. After one more large fire in late May, there was a lull in large fire activity until the first week of July, when dry lightning touched off numerous large fires in northern Nevada. The greatest concentration (40%) of large fire activity occurred as a result of lightning during the 2-week period from August 6-19. These fires were responsible for 457,060 acres burned, 75% of the total acreage burned by large fires during the entire season. The last large fire of the season was contained on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. By that date, 69 large fires had burned a total of 601,485 acres (all agencies plus private). This compares to an average of 71 large fires occurring each year from 1996 to 2000. As is generally the case, large fires make up the majority of the total acreage burned; in 2001, large fires accounted for 92% of the total acres burned.

Large fire workload by dispatch center was as follows:

<u>Dispatch Center</u>	<u># of Large Fires</u>	<u># of Acres Burned</u>
Elko Interagency Dispatch Center	26	301,402
Central Nevada Interagency Dispatch Center	24	236,961
Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center	7	44,886
Ely Interagency Communication Center	12	18,236

### **Incident Management Teams**

Three-quarters as many Incident Management Team (IMT) mobilizations occurred within the Western Great Basin Area in 2001 as in 2000, and IMT use was at roughly half the level seen in 1999. In all, 15 Type 2 IMT assignments occurred, but there were no Type 1 IMT assignments within the Area. Teams from outside of the Great Basin filled 2 of these assignments (for a total of 10 days), and the 2 Western Great Basin IMTs filled 7 of the assignments (for a total of 53 days).

Western Great Basin incidents with Incident Management Teams assigned can be broken down as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u># of Large Fires</u>	<u># of Team Assignments</u>
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	53	11
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	5	3
Nevada (State) Division of Forestry (NDF)	8	0
BIA/Tribe	2	1
National Park Service (NPS)	1	0

### **Historical Comparison**

The 2001 season ranks fourth (behind 1999, 1996 and 2000) among the past 15 years for the largest number of acres affected by fire. At 1,277, the total number of fires was 125% of the 5-year average of 1,021 fires, while the total of 654,253 acres burned was 94% of the 5-year average of 699,316 acres.

### **Fire Rehabilitation Efforts**

In 2001, Bumed Area Emergency Rehabilitation Teams were formed at 4 Field Offices to develop mitigation and rehabilitation plans for 74 fires. Resource damages in total acres were similar to the 2000 fire season, with a total of 204,430 acres planned for re-seeding. The mild and wet conditions expected for the Winter and Spring of 2002 should create optimum growing conditions to support re-seeding efforts, as well as continuing to support the rehabilitation efforts of 2000 and 2001.

**Western Great Basin Area**  
**2001 Fire Statistical Summary**  
(as of 11/01/01)

Unit/Agency	Fires by Cause		Acres by Cause		Total Fires	Total Acres
	Human	Lightning	Human	Lightning		
Eastern Nevada Agency	2	4	3	2,240	6	2,243
Western Nevada Agency	10	3	228	6,511	13	6,739
Duck Valley Tribe	5	2	30	50	7	80
<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs/Tribes</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>8,801</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9,062</b>
Elko Field Office	23	146	1,391	280,243	169	281,634
Winnemucca Field Office	46	68	43,461	177,245	114	220,706
Carson City Field Office	39	62	788	30,914	101	31,702
Ely Field Office	19	289	246	16,014	308	16,260
Las Vegas Field Office	7	34	183	38	41	221
Battle Mountain Field Office	15	73	12	2,015	88	2,027
<b>Bureau of Land Management*</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>46,081</b>	<b>506,469</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>552,550</b>
Ruby Lake NWR	0	2	0	1	2	1
Fallon & Stillwater NWRs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pahranagat, Desert, Ash Meadows & Moapa NWRs	1	1	0	0	2	0
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Great Basin National Park	0	6	0	709	6	709
Lake Mead NRA	10	0	103	0	10	103
<b>National Park Service</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>812</b>
Northern Region	48	94	1,219	28,448	142	29,667
Western Region	10	6	89	285	16	374
Southern Region	1	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Nevada Division of Forestry**</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>28,733</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>30,041</b>
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Elko area)	1	12	0	7,644	13	7,644
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Winnemucca area)	2	1	41,831	0	3	41,831
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Sierra Front & central NV)	28	85	10,347	47	113	10,394
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Ely area)	1	26	0	1,823	27	1,823
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF (Las Vegas area)	49	45	41	54	94	95
<b>U.S. Forest Service</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>52,219</b>	<b>9,568</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>61,787</b>
Department of Defense (Nellis AFB)	0	1	0	0	1	0
Department of Energy (Nevada Test Site)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other Federal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Geographic Area Totals</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>99,972</b>	<b>554,281</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>654,253</b>

\*BLM totals include 178,761 acres of private and other agency lands burned on BLM fires.

\*\*NDF statistics have not been verified against the official agency database.

## 2000 Prescribed Fire Activity

Agency/Unit	Prescribed Fire/Mechanical		Wildland Fire Use	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Eastern Nevada Agency	0	0	2	0
<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Elko Field Office	1	600	0	0
Winnemucca Field Office	4	472	0	0
Carson City Field Office	7	230	0	0
Ely Field Office	6	6,062	42	8,593
Las Vegas Field Office	3	68	0	0
Battle Mountain Field Office	3	8,757	0	0
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7,432</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8,593</b>
Ruby Lake NWR	2	3,765	0	0
Pahranagat/Desert NWRs	0	0	0	0
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Great Basin NP	0	0	1	618
Lake Mead NRA	1	0	0	0
<b>National Park Service</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>618</b>
Northern Region	0	0	0	0
Western Region	0	0	0	0
Southern Region	0	0	0	0
<b>Nevada Division of Forestry</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Humboldt-Toiyabe NF	2	182	0	0
<b>U.S. Forest Service</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Geographic Area Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11,379</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9,211</b>

## Western Great Basin Large Fires for 2001 (as of 9/27/01)

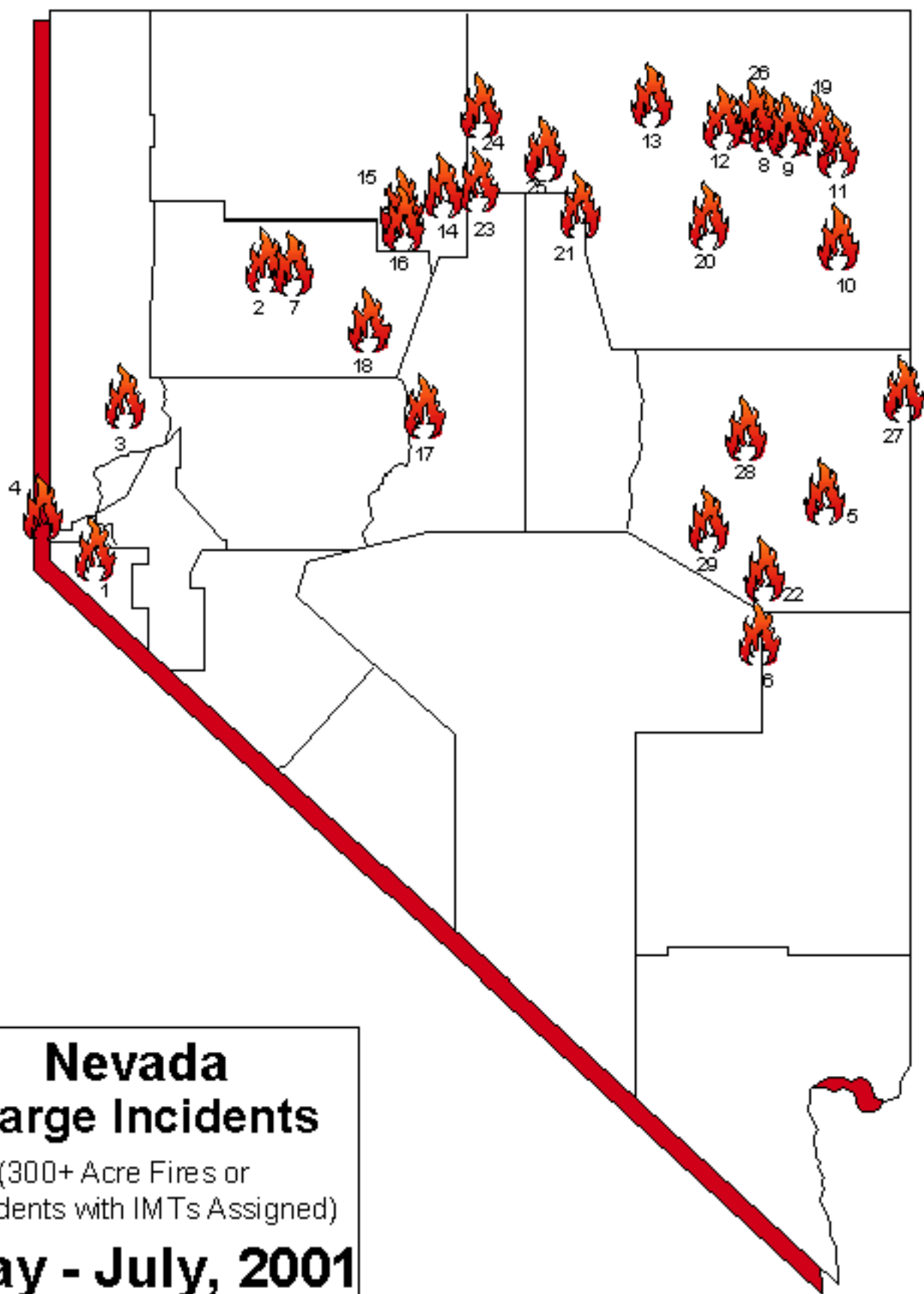
Dispatch Center	Map Ref #	Incident Name	Number	Agency	Latitude	Longitude	Size	Contain Date	IMT Assigned	IMT Type	Cause	Significant Impacts
EIDC	8	Metropolis	N2020015	NDF-NNS	41 15	115 00	1,200	7/6/01			Lightning	Threats to wild life, grazing, and the California T rail.
	9	Bishop	N2020033	NDF-NNS	41 15	114 53	2,995	7/6/01			Lightning	Grouse habitat threatened.
	10	Neptune	X155	BLM-EKD	40 38	114 42	1,715	7/6/01			Lightning	Threats to winter wildlife habitat.
		West Pequops Complex:							Burdick	2		
	11	West Pequop	X157	BLM-EKD	41 10	114 42	4,031	7/6/01			Lightning	Wildlife habitat (Elk, Deer, and Sage Grouse) and Elk guzzlers threatened.
	19	Wine Cup	X169	BLM-EKD	41 22	114 43	9,345	7/6/01			Lightning	Threats to wild life habitat, livestock/range, and the California Trail.
		Isolation Complex:							Saleen	2		
	12	Isolated	X160	BLM-EKD	41 17	115 20	14,032	7/7/01			Lightning	Grazing allotments, ranch residences and improvements, cultural sites, and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout habitat threatened.
	13	Double Mtn.	X162	BLM-EKD	41 27	115 41	4,500	7/5/01			Lightning	Grazing allotments and cultural sites threatened.
	20	Egbert	N2020036	NDF-NNS	40 49	115 25	1,252	7/6/01			Lightning	Threats to grazing allotment(s).
	21	Maggie Creek	N2020052	NDF-NNS	40 51	116 10	11,455	7/6/01			Lightning	
	23	Valmy	X226	BLM-EKD	40 59	116 59	510	7/20/01			Lightning	
	25	Mud Springs	X228	BLM-EKD	41 06	116 31	545	7/21/01			Lightning	Threats to wildlife habitat.
	26	Tabor Creek	X231	BLM-EKD	41 24	115 04	7,005	7/31/01	Murphy	2	Lightning	Threats to livestock/grazing, wildlife habitat and a power line.
	30	Stag	X246	BLM-EKD	41 19	115 29	20,000	8/9/01	Burdick	2	Lightning	Threats to mule deer winter range, elk and antelope habitat, and grazing allotments. 11 cattle confirmed killed.
	32	Delano	X257	BLM-EKD	41 46	114 17	8,828	8/8/01	Broyles	2	Lightning	Threats to an archeological site, sage grouse habitat, elk and deer habitat, and grazing allotments.
	33	MM 367	X256	BLM-EKD	40 59	114 38	660	8/8/01			Lightning	
	35	Rodeo Creek	N2020054	NDF-NNS	40 57	116 30	6,100	8/10/01			Lightning	Threats to deer, chuckar habitat, and grazing.
	39	Murphy	P44629	USFS-HTF	41 53	115 34	7,510	8/12/01	Broyles	2	Lightning	Threat to crucial elk and mule deer winter range, Bruneau River watershed, and air quality over Jarbidge Wilderness. 7,252 acres USFS, 258 acres state.
		Sheep Complex							Burdick	2		
	40	Sheep	X275	BLM-EKD	40 20	116 51	82,000	8/13/01			Lightning	Threat to cultural resources, grazing lands, isolated ranches, microwave/FAA towers, and wildlife habitat.
	48	Coyote	X284	BLM-EKD	41 06	116 11	11,675	8/17/01			Lightning	Threat to ranch structures, deer winter range, sage grouse habitat and grazing.
	49	Starr Valley	N2020292	NDF-NNS	40 59	115 14	3,000	8/14/01			Lightning	Threats to wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, 8 ranches and a community cemetery. Fire was almost exclusively on private land.
	50	Buffalo Complex:							Conrad (CA)	2		
		Buffalo	X286	BLM-EKD	41 17	116 40	21,158	8/16/01			Lightning	In addition to the threats listed under the Hot Lake fire, this fire also threatened a historic school, mine, power lines, and the Little Humboldt WSA.
		Hot Lake	X305	BLM-EKD	41 06	116 43	71,934	8/17/01			Lightning	Threat to 65 residences and 20 outbuildings, Bighorn sheep habitat, livestock, grazing lands, Rock Creek WHMA, fences, and sage grouse habitat and leks.
	51	Dunphy	N2020284	NDF-NNS	40 42	116 28	7,453	8/13/01			Lightning	
	52	Bailey	X297	BLM-EKD	40 26	116 04	1,000	8/13/01			Lightning	
	67	PX	N2020234	NDF-NNS	41 32	115 53	420	9/5/01			Human	Threats to haystacks, winter hay meadows, and ranch structures.
	68	Shale	X334	BLM-EKD	40 51	115 51	1,079	9/5/01			Human	Threats to deer habitat, power poles, and phone lines.

Western Great Basin Large Fires for 2001											
Dispatch Center	Map Ref #	Incident Name	Agency	Latitude	Longitude	Size	Contain Date	IMT Assigned	IMT Type	Cause	Significant Impacts

[illegible]

Western Great Basin Large Fires for 2001											
Dispatch Center	Map Ref #	Incident Name	Agency	Latitude	Longitude	Size	Contain		IMT	Cause	Significa nt Impacts
							Date	IMT Assigned	Type		

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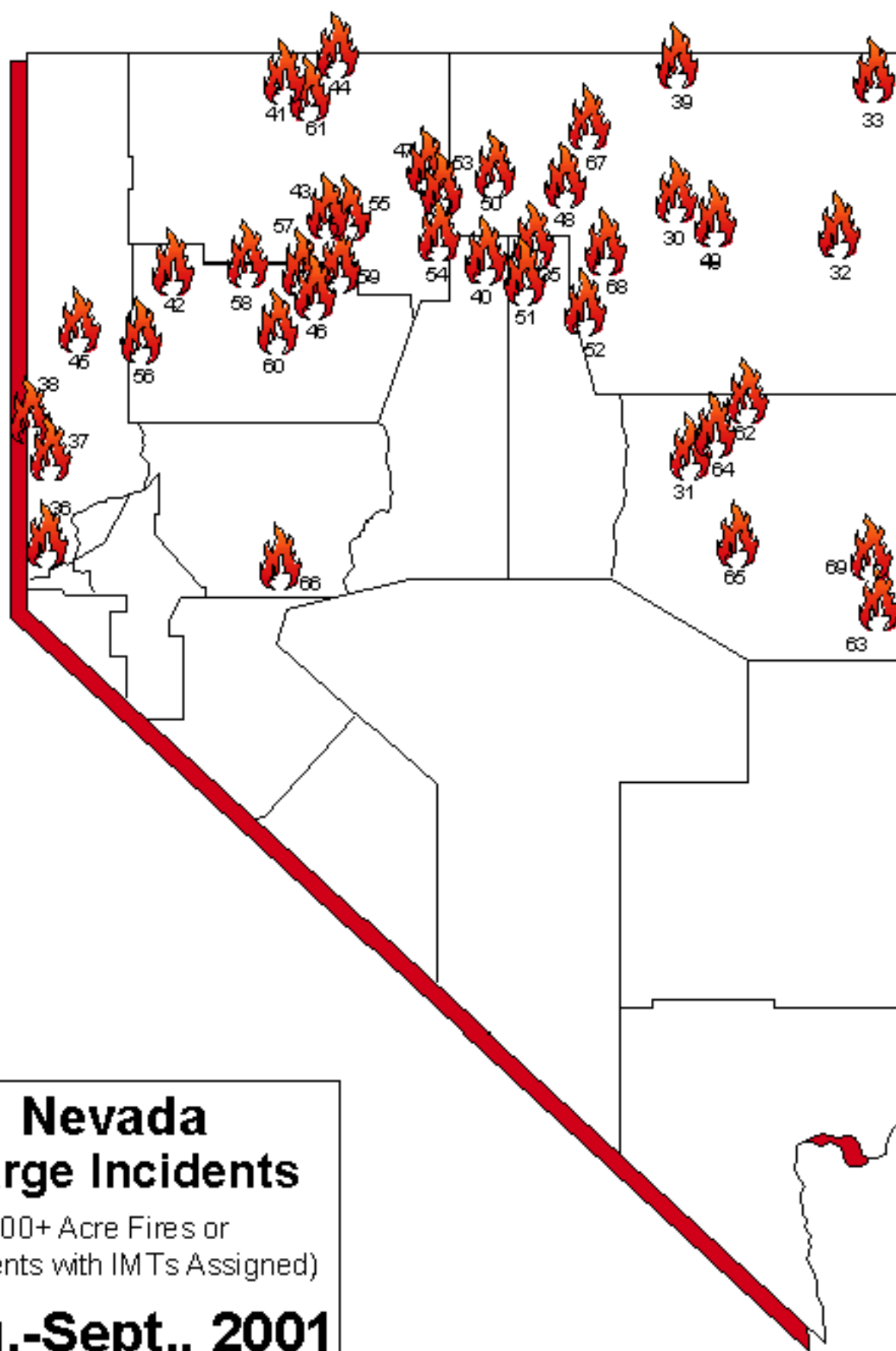


## **Nevada Large Incidents**

(300+ Acre Fires or  
Incidents with IMTs Assigned)

**May - July, 2001**





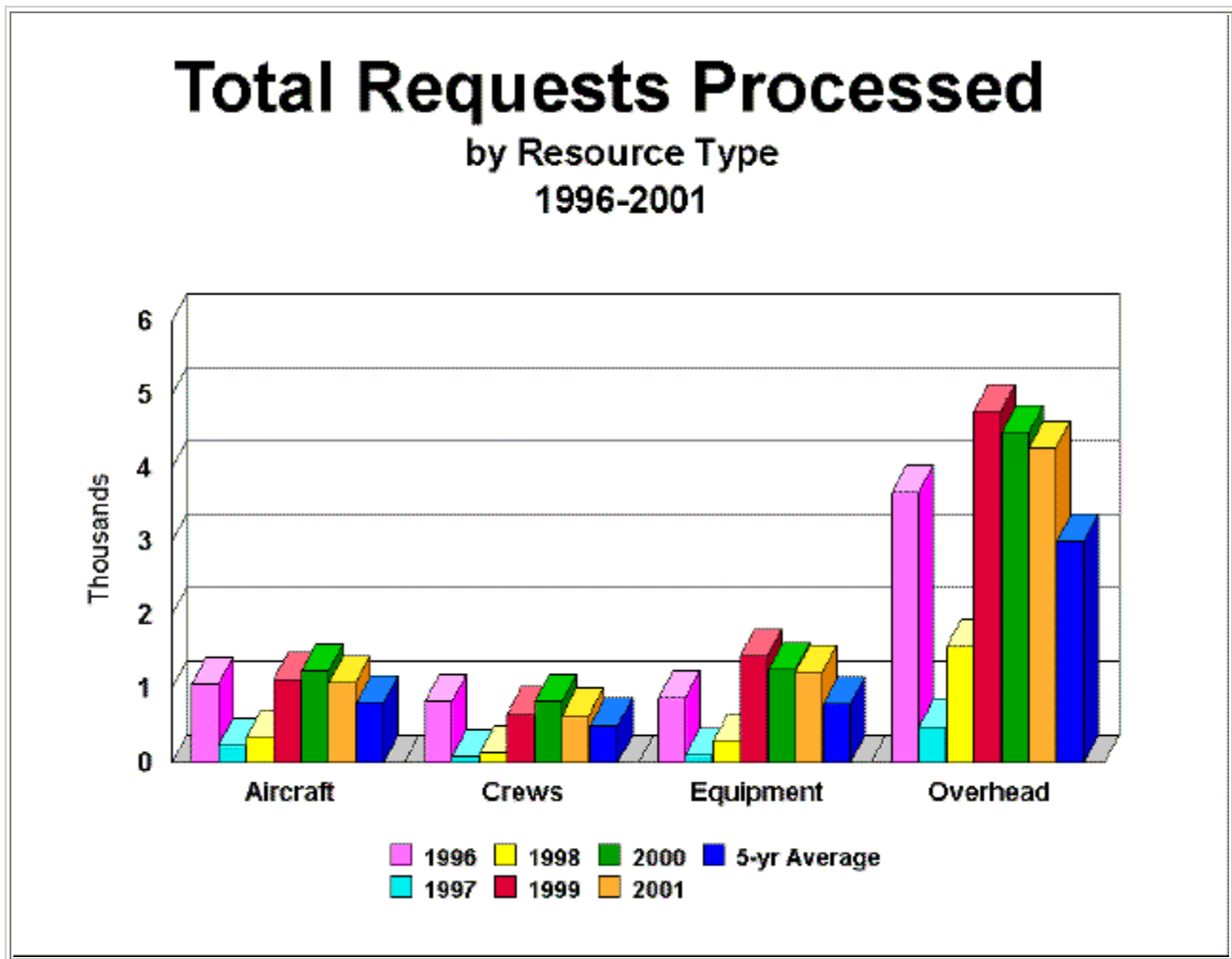
## **Nevada Large Incidents**

(300+ Acre Fires or  
Incidents with IMTs Assigned)

**Aug.-Sept., 2001**

# Western Great Basin Coordination Center

## 2001 Workload Measures



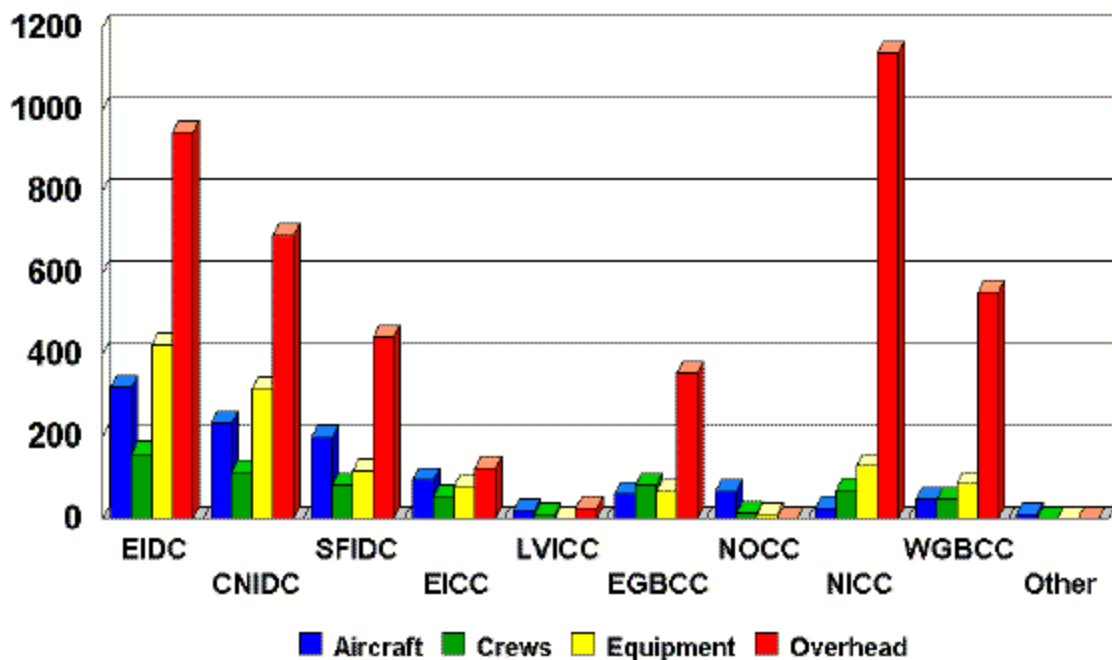
Total Resource Requests Processed by Year

## 1996-2001

Year	Aircraft	Crews	Equipment	Overhead	Total
1996	1,060	823	877	3,670	6,430
1997	240	84	109	501	934
1998	353	141	304	1,576	2,374
1999	1,133	660	1,434	4,783	8,010
2000	1,249	825	1,255	4,499	7,828
2001	1,081	641	1,233	4,278	7,233
5-yr. Average	807	507	796	3,006	5,115

## Total Resource Requests

by Ordering Office and Resource Type  
2001



Total Resource Requests Processed (by Resource Type and Office Placing the Order) 2001					
Dispatch Center	Aircraft	Crews	Equipment	Overhead	Total
EIDC	320	159	423	944	1,846
CNIDC	231	116	316	692	1,355
SFIDC	196	82	117	443	838
EICC	95	54	80	123	352
LVICC	21	12	2	27	62
EGBCC	61	83	67	354	565
WGBCC	50	48	88	554	740
NOCC	69	15	10	1	95
NICC	26	72	130	1,139	1,367
Other*	12	0	0	1	13
Totals	1,081	641	1,233	4,278	7,233

\* "Other" includes the BLM Boise Smokejumpers and Boise Interagency Logistics Center.

Note: All statistics are for orders processed through the Western Great Basin Coordination Center only. They do not include dispatches on home units or to neighboring units under initial attack agreements (if less than 24 hours in duration). Supply orders are not included.